

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

UPPER PAYMENT LIMIT PAYMENTS

All physician services provided on and after August 1, 2006, by faculty practices affiliated with public teaching hospitals located in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) will be eligible for Upper Payment Limit rate adjustments. Currently, only hospital-based physician services provided by such faculty practices are eligible for Upper Payment Limit rate adjustments. The non-federal share for any rate adjustment payments will be provided solely by intergovernmental transfers from governmental entities with which affiliated public hospitals are associated; from State appropriations made available by the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce; or from State appropriations specifically designated as a source of matching funds for physician UPL payments.

The rate payment adjustments will be subject to federal upper payment limits. Aggregate rate adjustment payments available without exceeding upper payment limits will be determined by measuring the difference between:

- Fee-for-service amounts paid for services provided to Medicaid patients; and
- Estimated payment amounts for such services if payments were based on rates of commercial payers.

The department's preliminary estimates assume annual expenditures will increase by \$4.8 million (\$1.9 million in state matching funds). These supplemental payments will be made to provide additional financial support for medical education.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on the proposed changes should do so before July 13, 2006, to the Board of Community Health, P. O. Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Comments so submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on July 13, 2006, at 12:00 p.m. in conjunction with the July meeting of the Board of Community Health. Individuals who are disabled and in need of assistance to participate during the meeting should call (404) 656-4479. The Board will vote on the proposed change after comments have been received. The location of the July Board meeting will be posted on the department's website at www.dch.georgia.gov prior to July 13, 2006.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 8th DAY OF June, 2006.
Dr. Rhonda M. Medows, Commissioner